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*Jan*

SHILDON & EAST THICKLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

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# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

TO

The Shildon and East Thickley  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

*For the Year Ending Dec. 31st, 1902.*

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**S. FIELDEN,**

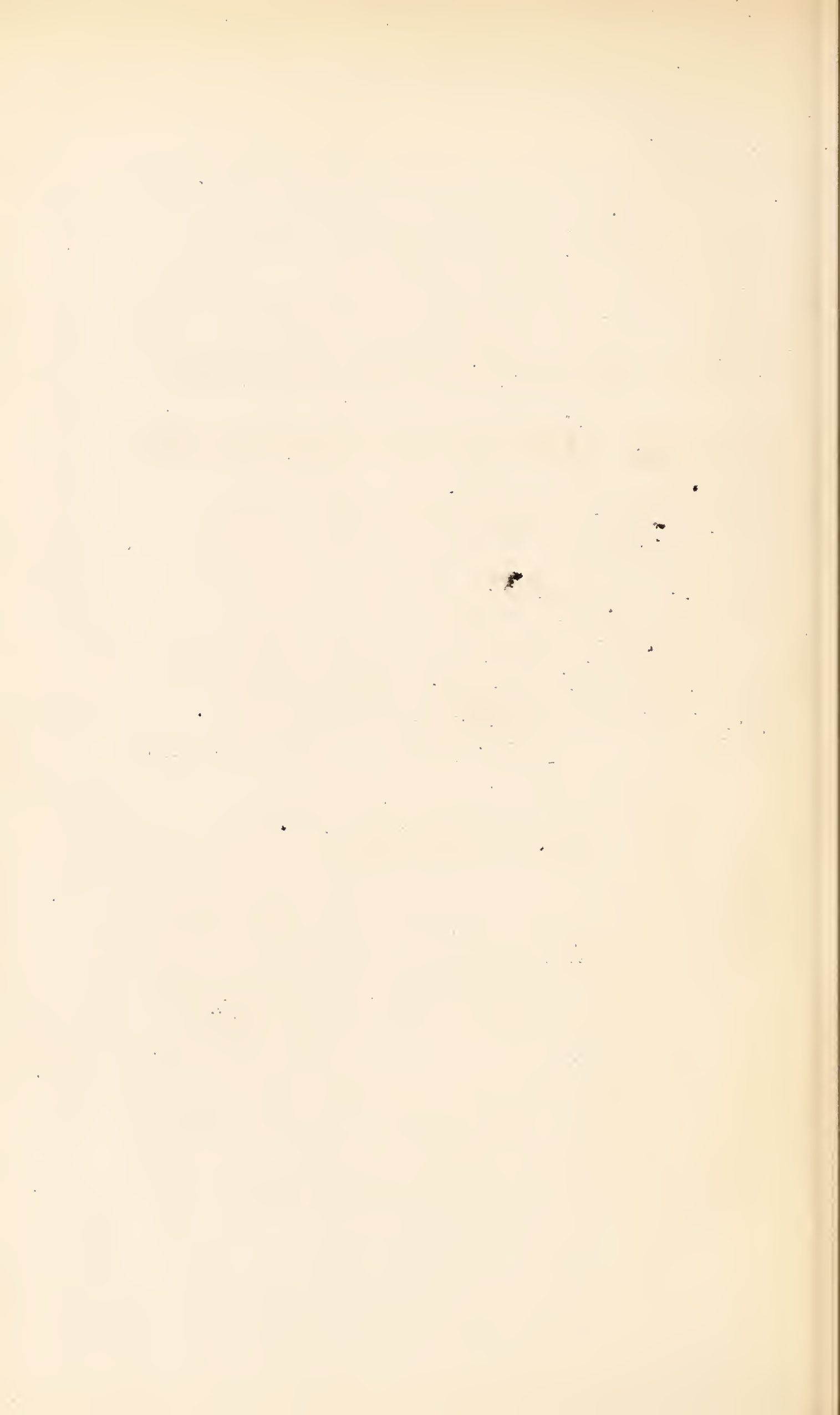
M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health,

*MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.*

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J. RICHARDSON, PRINTER, SHILDON.



To the Shildon and East Thiekley  
***Urban District Council.***

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Gentlemen,

*I beg to submit my Annual Report for the  
Year 1902.*

## **POPULATION.**

The Census Returns in April, 1901 showed the population of your District to be 11759, and my estimate at the middle of that year is 11,821.

The population at mid-year in 1902 I estimate at 12,071, and as it is of some importance for comparison I give later on corrected estimates at mid-year for the 10 preceding years.

The number of houses occupied in the District at mid-year, 1902 was 2682, which yields an average of 4·5 persons for each house.

## **Birth Rate in 1902.**

385 births were registered in the District during the year (189 males and 196 females), against 404 in 1901.

This represents a birth-rate of 31·8 per 1000 of population, against 34·1 in 1901.

## **Death Rate.**

In 1902 there were 154 deaths registered in the district, and to these are to be added 9, of persons belonging to, but who died in Public Institutions outside the district.

The total to be dealt with, therefore, is 163, which yields the extremely low rate of 13·5 per 1000 of population. Of these deaths 82 were males and 81 females.

The deaths under the age of 1 year numbered 53, equal to a rate of 4·39 per 1000 of population, and of 137 per 1000 births registered.

The deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases (viz. Small Pox, Scarlatina, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, Measles, Typhus, Enteric and Continued Fever, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhœa) numbered 11, equal to a rate of 0·91 per 1000 of population, against 4 per 1000 in 1901.

Phthisis caused 7 deaths, equal to a rate of 0·57 per 1000 of population.

The deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy numbered 24, equal to a rate of 1·9 per 1000 of population.

Heart Diseases caused 20 deaths, equal to 1·6 per 1000 of population.

Accidents caused 7 deaths, viz.:—3 fatal mining accidents, 2 from burns in children, 1, a female, aged 44, who was accidentally suffocated in bed whilst in a state of intoxication, and 1 Railway accident to a man who did not reside in the district, and might very fairly have been excluded from our total deaths.



For comparison I place side by side the Vital Statistics for this District, the County of Durham, and for the whole of England and Wales for 1902.

Per 1000 of Population.				Per 1000 Births.
	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Zymotic Death Rate	Infantile Mortality rate.
Shildon U. District	31·8	13·5	0·91	137
Administrative } County of Durham }	35·6	16·6	1·68	139
England & Wales	28·6	16·3	1·64	133

The deaths of persons belonging to this district but which occurred in Public Institutions outside were as follows :—

Bp. Auckland District Cottage Hospital	1
Union Workhouse, Bp. Auckland	1
Infectious Diseases Hospital, Tindale Crescent	4
Durham County Asylum, Sedgelyield	3
	9

*The following Tables disclose many points of interest.*

1.—The mortality in and belonging to this District at the ages specified for the year ending Dec. 1902.

At all ages.	Under 1 year	BETWEEN						
		1 & 5	5 & 15	15 & 25	25 & 65	65 & 70	70 & 80	80 & 90
163	53	17	11	8	40	18	10	6

## 2.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1902.

	Ent. Fever	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria	Erysipelas.
January ...	—	8	—	1
February..	—	7	4	1
March ...	—	16	4	3
April ...	—	13	—	3
May ...	2	12	—	—
June ...	1	7	—	2
July ...	3	8	—	—
August ...	3	2	2	1
September	3	2	1	—
October ...	2	4	3	—
November	1	10	4	—
December	—	9	15	2
Totals	15	98	33	13

N.B.—1 case of Diphtheria and 1 of Scarlatina were sent to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, *but not notified*. They are included in this Table.

## 3.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified in—

	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlatina ..	98	88	88	27	14	20	74	14	47	63
Diphtheria ..	33	3	4	6	4	—	3	2	10	16
Croup ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Ent. Fever ..	15	39	18	44	36	34	17	39	46	196
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	2
Erysipelas ..	13	11	9	8	13	14	11	12	13	25
Totals ..	159	141	119	87	67	68	105	69	117	305

4.—Population, Birth Rate, Death Rate, &c., for 2 Series of 10 years each.

1st Series. 1882-1891.

Year	Estimated Population at Mid-Year.	Births	Rate per 1000 popula- tion.	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Zymotic Diseases	Rate per 1000 popula- tion.	Deaths at all ages	Rate per 1000 popula- tion.
1882	8,791	369	41.9	51	138	57	6.48	200	22.7
1883	8,879	368	41.4	58	158	27	3.00	182	20.5
1884	8,967	387	43.2	59	152	23	2.56	169	17.9
1885	9,055	356	39.3	53	149	17	1.87	175	19.3
1886	9,143	335	36.6	41	122	20	2.19	151	16.5
1887	9,232	367	39.7	60	163	15	1.62	167	18.1
1888	9,320	337	36.1	44	130	6	0.65	160	17.2
1889	9,408	359	38.2	71	198	36	3.83	193	20.5
1890	9,496	326	34.3	56	170	27	2.79	177	18.7
1891	9,587	412	42.9	70	169	27	2.81	227	23.3
Averages for 10 yrs 1882-1901	9,188	361	39.3	56.3	156	25.5	2.66	180	21.1



*2nd. Series. 1892-1901 with those for 1902 appended.*

Year	Estimated Population at Mid-Year	Births.	Rate per 1000 popula- tion	Deaths under 1 , year	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Zymotic Diseases	Rate per 1000 popula- tion.	Deaths at all ages	Rate per 1000 popula- tion.
1892	9790	371	37.8	51	137	10	1.02	162	16.5
1893	9937	355	35.5	85	239	82	8.3	253	25.3
1894	10209	342	33.49	49	143	7	0.68	145	14.2
1895	10425	393	37.6	77	195	31	2.97	195	18.6
1896	10645	326	30.6	43	131	19	1.78	160	15.0
1897	10871	350	32.1	56	160	15	1.37	180	16.5
1898	11101	356	32.0	80	224	33	2.97	192	17.2
1899	11336	383	33.7	70	182	26	2.28	205	18.0
1900	11576	353	30.4	55	155	18	1.55	188	16.2
1901	11821	404	34.1	76	188	48	4.06	206	17.4
Averages for 10 yrs 1892-1901	10777	363	33.7	64.2	175	29	2.69	183	17.4
1902	12071	385	31.8	53	137	11	0.91	163	13.5

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### SMALL POX.

No cases were notified in this district, though 2 cases occurred at Bishop Auckland, and others at Crook, Willington, South Shields, &c., in the County. Happily the prompt measures adopted by the several authorities prevented any serious spread of the disease.

### SCARLET FEVER.

98 cases were met with, of which 48 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. During the whole year this disease was hardly ever absent from this district and prevailed to a considerable extent in the surrounding districts.

For the most part it was of mild type—so mild, indeed, that doubtless some cases were not recognised, and probably attended the various schools, in this way conducing to the spread of the disease.

Only one case terminated fatally. It will be observed that the number of cases notified amounts almost to two-thirds of the total notifiable cases, viz. 98 Scarlatina, as against 159 from all causes.

I very much regret to say that the distribution of leaflets, setting forth the means to be adopted for preventing the spread of this and other

infectious diseases, and any amount of time spent in endeavouring to explain and indicate the most ordinary precautionary measures, were entirely unavailing in a great many instances.

People seem to treat the whole matter with contempt and indifference. Some mothers allow their children while in an infectious condition to go out of doors and play with healthy children; while others with healthy children in their arms visit at infected houses. When people persistently disregard friendly warning in such cases, for the safety of the public, I consider it to be the duty of every Sanitary Authority to prosecute, as the law directs.

To enable the people to comprehend something of the obligations and duties they owe to themselves, to their fellow-citizens, and to the State, I think it would be a wise measure if the County Council would give this and other similar matters their serious consideration, and with the before-mentioned object in view, appoint a number of female Inspectors, with districts assigned to each, to devote their time to visiting the people in their own homes, and instructing them in a plain, simple and practical manner, in the elementary principles of Sanitation. This may appear to many to be a matter of such a trivial consequence as to be unworthy of the deliberations of such an august body, but, I assure you, Gentlemen, that the need for such instruction is only too apparent to those whose



daily duties require them to move freely about amongst the people in a district like this.

Words fail me to express what I believe would be the advantage to the Nation if such an undertaking were seriously and carefully carried out; I am firmly convinced, however, that by this means Intemperance would be diminished, Homes would be made more comfortable, Infantile mortality would be decreased, and the General Health of the Community would be promoted to a degree which it is impossible to calculate.

It has come to my knowledge that in one instance at least, a pupil was sent from School to enquire at an infected house as to the cause of the absence of some other pupil. The practice is a very reprehensible and dangerous one and should be discontinued.

## **DIPHTHERIA & MEMBRANOUS CROUP.**

Of these diseases no less than 33 cases were reported, as compared with 3 in 1901.

Five cases had a fatal termination. 23 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. On visiting the houses and surroundings in which these cases occurred, in only a very few were any Sanitary defects discovered, and these were of a very trifling character; in none could anything likely to produce the disease be found, nor was there any reason to suspect the milk supply.

It should be noted, however, that the disease had prevailed for some time in the adjoining R.D. of Auckland, and it is very probable that it was introduced into this District by the visitation of friends, or by letters sent from an infected house. I believe it is spread in a great many cases by direct infection, through persons suffering from slight sore throat, who are unaware of the serious nature of their illness, but yet in whose throats Diphtheria bacilli are present in large numbers; and in this way it is probable that the disease which has been confined to children of school age to a large extent, may have been spread by some unrecognised cases attending School.

On this account, and in consequence of so many children being struck down by this disease, and by Scarlatina, it was thought desirable to close the Schools in the District, and this was done on Dec. 11th.

It is very desirable that School Teachers should make daily enquiry as to the presence of any child or children suffering from sore throat, and any such should be at once sent home. This is especially necessary when Scarlatina or Diphtheria are known to be prevalent, and no child who is known to have suffered from either disease should be permitted to return to School until definite permission has been given by the Medical man in attendance, and the same rule should apply to children living in infected houses.



The cases were distributed as follows---

OLD SHILDON.

(17 cases.)

Main Street	2 cases
High Garbutt St.	3 „
Auckland Terrace	4 „
Co-operative St.	3 „
Garden Street	1 case
Iley Street	1 „
Back York St.	1 „
Bolckow Street	1 „
Stable Row	1 „

CHAPEL ROW.

(6 cases.)

Church Street	1 case
Association St.	2 cases
Quarry Top	1 case
Dent Street	1 „
Foundry Street	1 „

NEW SHILDON.

(4 cases)

Alma Road	1 case
Soho Road	1 „
Adelaide Street	1 „
Magdala Terrace	1 „

EAST THICKLEY.

(6 cases.)

Pears Terrace	2 cases
Redworth Road	2 „
East Street	1 case
Tomlin Street	1 „

## ENTERIC FEVER.

15 cases were notified, with 2 deaths. Of these 12 cases were removed to the Hospital, and they were met with in the following localities, viz. :

OLD SHILDON

(2 cases)

Stable Row	1 case
Garbutt Street	1 case

CHAPEL ROW

(2 cases)

Lilburn Street	1 case
Spencely Street	1 „

NEW SHILDON.

(6 cases)

Soho Road	1 case
St. John's Road	1 „
Strand Street	1 „
Lumley Crescent	1 „
Gardiner Street	2 cases

EAST THICKLEY.

(5 cases)

Barraclough Street	1 case
Strand Street	3 cases
Scott Street	1 case

Except in Strand Street no Sanitary defects of any consequence were found, but here—where 3 cases occurred in one house we discovered a defective trap, with drain running under the Kitchen floor, and close by we found also an old surface-water drain (also under the Kitchen) which was full of filth. These were both removed and a new drain properly laid with Sanitary Pipes, outside of the building, substituted. A new Gulley Trap was also fixed.

### **MEASLES.**

A considerable number of cases were observed, but the disease was mostly of very mild type, and no cases terminated fatally.

### **DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY.**

Only two fatal cases were reported. The somewhat remarkable absence of Diarrhœal disorder is due in the main to climatic conditions;—the long continued low temperature being inimical to the development of the specific organism which gives rise to epidemic diarrhœa, in infants. No doubt, bottle feeding, filthy surroundings, unhealthy, badly-ventilated dwellings, and want of personal cleanliness, have a tendency to lessen the vitality of children, and to render them more susceptible to these and every other kind of disease, still the specific organisms which are the cause, are generated mainly in polluted soils, when the temperature rises above a certain point.

## GENERAL SANITATION.

The new Factories and Workshops Act (1901) came into operation in January, 1902, and not only increases the power and authority of District Councils, but adds considerably to their responsibilities. It also entails considerable additional work and expenditure of time on the part of your Medical Officer and Surveyor.

In accordance with the requirements of the Act, we have visited and inspected the Factories and Workshops within the district, a list of which was supplied by H.M. Inspector of Factories. We found in all these places that the various requirements had been complied with, except that there was insufficient closet accommodation in three of the establishments visited.

In one case an entirely new range of out-offices is about to be erected, and in the other two we have issued notices to provide suitable accommodation.

## WATER SUPPLY.

This continues to be satisfactory in every respect.

The Water Company has completed the filter beds, to which I have referred in former Reports, all the water, in fact, which has been supplied to this district for some time has been passing through these beds, and the improvement in its appearance is very pronounced.



## **Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.**

Careful house to house enquiries were made in several districts, where overcrowding was reported to exist, with the result that action was taken in about 30 cases.

In 26 of these, some of the inmates (lodgers principally) obtained fresh quarters, whilst in others the families found accommodation in larger houses.

In two cases the occupiers were summoned before the Magistrates and convictions obtained in both.

The houses in Jacob's Row, North Terrace, Pinkney's Row, Queen Street and Kelloe Row have been much improved, and several back-to-back houses in Chapel Street have been converted into through double houses.

## **DRAINS AND SEWERS.**

15 New private drains have been re-laid, the old ones having been found defective in various ways.

In back St. John's Road the Sewer has been re-laid from end to end. Even although in this Street there is a considerable natural fall, it was found that the old Sewer became blocked at times. On investigation it was discovered that in places it was running the wrong way, that the joints were in many cases open, and a nine-inch pipe was here and there found between two 12-inch ones.

A new Sewer has also been laid in Back Phoenix Street, in consequence mainly of the old one having insufficient fall.

In the many inspections I have made during the year, I have frequently been accompanied by the Surveyor, and once or twice we have also had the advantage of the presence of the County Medical Officer of Health.

We have found many insanitary conditions and defects of various kinds, and many owners have cheerfully undertaken whatever means were suggested for their rectification.

The Cells and Sanitary accommodation at the Police Station have been made much more commodious and sanitary, so that those who may be unfortunate enough to require temporary lodgings there will at least have the consolation that their health is less likely to suffer than was the case previous to the alteration.

A large number of Privy Middens have been abolished, but there are still a great many to be got rid of.

## SCAVENGING.

This on the whole has been better done, but now and again complaints have not unjustly been made.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have been inspected, and beyond a few minor defects nothing of any consequence was found.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

There is now, I am glad to say much less objection made to the removal of cases to the Hospital than was formerly the case.



## Electric Supply and Refuse Destructor.

I regret very much that nothing seems to have been done in this matter, although, as far as I can understand, all legal difficulties are now removed. I trust the Council will use every endeavour to get the work proceeded with, and with as little delay as possible.

### *RECOMMENDATIONS.*

- 1.—To proceed as soon as possible with the Bacterial Filter Beds.
- 2.—To continue the demolition of Privy Middens.
- 3.—To continue the cementing and asphalt-of open spaces and back yards.
- 4.—To insist on the raising of all New Houses well above the Street level, and to enforce Bye-Law re concreting of Site.
- 5.—To continue the making of Streets and Back Streets.

### **Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department in 1902.**

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.**

Notices served in consequence of—

Structural defects in Houses	...	...	33
Overcrowding	...	...	30

**Summary of Work in Inspector's Dep't.—Continued.**

Insanitary Cow Sheds	..	...	...	2
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	..	55
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	..	...	...	3
Water Closets	...	...	...	1
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	...	8
Defective Traps	...	...	...	10
Sewers not disconnected	..	...	...	3
Sewers—other faults	...	...	...	27
Pigsties	...	...	...	5
Animals improperly kept	..	...	...	1
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				179
				<hr/>

**PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

Lots of Infectious Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	...	..	...	83
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...			63
				<hr/>
				146
				<hr/>

I have duly filled in Statistical Forms, which I will forward, as required, to the Local Government Board, the County Council, &c.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

S. FIELDEN,

M. O. H.